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SUBJECT: Policy and Procedures for Overseas Handling, Processing and Reporting on Selected Nationally Programmed Photographic Reconnaissance Missions (Excluding Satellite Reconnaissance)

1. **PURPOSE:** To establish policies and procedures for the overseas handling, processing and reporting on selected nationally programmed photographic reconnaissance missions. (DEFINITION: Nationally programmed photographic reconnaissance missions are those so stipulated by the USIB.
2. **REPLACEMENT:** The policies and procedures herein will replace those of the 11 August 1962 Memorandum of Understanding (Scoville and Charyk), and will augment those of NSCID #8.
3. **GENERAL:** In order to provide for the most expeditious processing and reporting of nationally programmed photographic reconnaissance missions, overseas photographic processing and interpretation centers may be designated by the Department of Defense.
4. **MISSION:** When field processing and readout are directed by USIB, these centers will be responsible for processing and reporting in response to requirements of the USIB, and on a non-interference basis requirements of the parent Unified or Specified Command.
5. **FACILITIES:** The Department of Defense will undertake to man and equip the designated OPICs to USIB standards for processing and readout of nationally programmed missions. Initially two have been so designated by DOD.

a. Location

- (1) OPIC-A. Manned and operated by the 67th RTS at Yokata, Japan.
- (2) OPIC-B. Manned and operated by the 497th RTS at Wiesbaden, West Germany.

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b. Requirements: Each designated OPIC will be prepared to accomplish the following:

- (1) Physical Security
- (2) Communications Security
- (3) Film Processing
- (4) Film Reproduction
- (5) Readout and Reporting

6. TASKS: The following tasks will be accomplished:

a. Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance (COMOR):

- (1) Acting for USIB, advise the (S) NRO as to the degree of urgency on processing and reporting of each mission or series of missions.
- (2) Acting for USIB, advise (S) NRO as to the place of processing and of readout for each mission or series missions.
- (3) Acting for USIB, issue distribution instructions and priorities for the film and the readout on each mission or series of missions to the appropriate OPIC through (S) NRO.
- (4) Provide each designated OPIC with current listings of established USIB (COMOR) reconnaissance requirements which are applicable to the theatre of operations.

b. (S) National Reconnaissance Office (NRO):

- (1) On behalf of USIB, assign processing and reporting responsibilities to specific designated OPICs.
- (2) Provide designated OPICs technological assistance, on request, in the field of photographic processing.
- (3) Provide, on behalf of USIB, each OPIC standards for equipment and supplies for processing.

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- (4) Provide designated OPICs with emergency procurement and shipment of photographic processing equipment and supplies, on a reimbursable basis.
- (5) Provide each designated OPIC, on behalf of USIB, standards for the results of processing.
- (6) Provide the appropriate OPIC timely mission alerting information as required.
- (7) Provide mission track to the appropriate OPIC as soon as practicable.
- (8) Provide basic guidance on national plans (e. g. anticipated sorties rates, emergence of new capabilities, etc.) which will affect the accomplishment of OPIC missions.

c. (C) National Photographic Interpretation Center (NPIC):

- (1) Provide each designated OPIC, on request, photographic interpretation assistance and services for reporting
- (2) Provide each designated OPIC, on behalf of USIB, standards for readout facility and equipment.
- (3) Provide each designated OPIC, on behalf of USIB, standards for the format and the quality of results of readout and exploitation.
- (4) Provide each designated OPIC background data on COMOR target objectives and support to enhance the maintenance of an intelligence library, adequate to the National and Theatre Commander's requirements for the area of operations.

d. Department of Defense:

- (1) Unified and Specified Commands:
 - (a) Insure that facilities, personnel, equipment and supplies for processing are provided the designated OPICs in accordance with the standards established by the (S) NRO on behalf of USIB.

(b) Insure that facilities, personnel, equipment and supplies for photographic exploitation are provided the designated OPICs in accordance with standards established by NPIC on behalf of USIB.

(c) Insure that processing results meet (S) NRO established standards, and that readout and exploitation results meet NPIC established standards.

(2) The Military Departments:

(a) Provide personnel, facilities, and equipment as required to support the designated OPICs.

(b) Provide and maintain secure communications --facilities responsive to the need for prompt reporting as defined by (S) NRO on behalf of USIB.

(3) Designated Overseas Processing and Interpretation Centers (OPIC):

(a) Maintain required security of their designated operating areas.

(b) Procure, and maintain their processing equipment and supplies in accordance with the standards established by (S) NRO on behalf of USIB.

(c) Procure and maintain their readout equipment and supplies in accordance with standards established by NPIC on behalf of USIB.

(d) Acquire, and maintain on board, adequately cleared and appropriately qualified personnel required for sustained operations.

(e) Maintain an intelligence reference library to enhance the timeliness and accuracy of reporting.

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- (f) Process original negatives of assigned missions.
- (g) Reproduce and ship copies as directed by COMOR on behalf of USIB.
- (h) Prepare Immediate Photographic Interpretation Report and transmit in accordance with COMOR instructions.

7. FUNDING:

- a. Designated Overseas Processing and Interpretation Centers operated by the U. S. Air Force will be funded through Air Force Channels. USAF in conjunction with (S) NRO will insure that sufficient funds are budgeted annually to cover the anticipated cost of National Program support. Emergency procurement support will be furnished by the (S) NRO on a reimbursable basis.
- b. Designated Overseas Processing and Interpretation Centers operated by the U. S. Navy will be funded through USN channels. USN in conjunction with (S) NRO will insure that sufficient funds are budgeted annually to cover the anticipated cost of National Program support. Emergency procurement support will be furnished by the (S) NRO on a reimbursable basis.
- c. Designated Overseas Processing and Interpretation Centers operated by the U. S. Army will be funded through USA channels. USA in conjunction with (S) NRO will insure that sufficient funds are budgeted annually to cover the anticipated cost of National Program support. Emergency procurement support will be furnished by the (S) NRO on a reimbursable basis.

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8. COMMUNICATIONS: All communications bearing on nationally controlled operations will be handled via SSO channels, except in those cases where exceptions have been authorized by the (S) NRO.

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